

Exchange Fellowship Past Projects

[Kerry Campbell, Saudi Arabia 2013-2014: “Cultural Event: Arabian Nights”](#)

After returning to the U.S., Kerry immediately organized and hosted a cultural event at her university, complete with Arabic food, music, and clothing. “Bringing the Arab culture to CNU allowed students and faculty to experience a ‘taste’ of what the Arab world has to offer,” said Kerry.

[Robert Nixon, Lebanon 2012 and Madalyn Goss, Saudi Arabia 2013-2014: “Online Publication: “Model Path to the Middle East:”](#)



Madalyn Goss

Bloomsburg University students Robert and Madalyn each participated in the NCUSAR Fellowship Exchange program, to Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, respectively. In Spring 2014, Bloomsburg University’s online magazine published a joint article about their study visits. Read about Robert and Madalyn’s experiences [here](#).



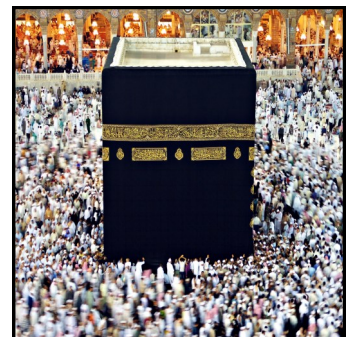
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[Mohamed Nehme, Saudi Arabia Summer 2010, “Online Publication: Feature in Arab American News:”](#)

Mohamed was interviewed by Arab America News as a participant on the first ever NCUSAR Saudi Arabia Exchange Fellowship. His feature is available to read [here](#). As the sole Muslim and

Arab-American on his particular delegation, Mohamed was able to visit Mecca, which he proclaimed to be an “out-of-body” experience.



[Shannon Collaer, Saudi Arabia 2012-2013: “Television Feature: Montana Spotlight:”](#)

Before she even stepped foot into the Kingdom, Shannon was reaching out to her college town to spread the news about her impending travels. Being featured on a local news station gave Shannon the opportunity to promote the importance of cross-cultural connections while also spreading awareness of the Middle East in her community. About the experience, Shannon said, “This was an exciting opportunity because I knew I was reaching thousands of people and engaging rural Montana in a dialogue that might not come up otherwise.”



“These events were helpful in educating Americans about Saudi Arabia and the Arab world because they united the American student population with the Saudi Arabian students in informal and fun settings.”

[Lauren Coughlin, Saudi Arabia 2012-2013](#)

[Laurel McCormack, Saudi Arabia Winter 2010, “Online Publication: Saudi Gazette Articles:”](#)

Laurel was a member of NCUSAR’s first all-female Saudi Arabian Exchange Fellowship. During her Fellowship year, Laurel was twice featured in the Saudi Arabian newspaper, the *Saudi Gazette*—an English language publication produced in Jeddah, available printed and online. Read Laurel’s interview with a *Gazette* reporter [here](#) and see selections from her in-country journal [here](#).

[Lauren Coughlin, Saudi Arabia 2012-2013: “Cultural Event: Saudi Student Association Partnership:”](#)

The Saudi Student Association (SSA) at Lauren’s university, along with Lauren herself, hosted a cultural event that included a segment called “Tea for Troy,” which showcased different types of Saudi Arabian beverages. This event also featured discussions and dialogues between the SSA and



Lauren Coughlin, far left.

American students. “These events were helpful in educating Americans about Saudi Arabia and the Arab world because they united the American student population with the Saudi Arabian students in informal and fun settings. I was present as an American who has also experienced and appreciates Arab culture to better facilitate discussion and questioning, and I was available to mediate any potential cultural misunderstandings,” said Lauren.

Alia Matariyeh, Saudi Arabia 2013-2014: “Cross-Cultural Outing: Poetry Reading:”



Alia gathered a group of 5 American girls and 5 Saudi Arabian girls to go to a reading of poet Rumi at the Chicago Silk Theatre Rising. After the reading, the group discussed the impact of the reading on their lives over dessert and coffee. According to Alia, “The discussion was fruitful in analyzing our socio-cultural overlaps between the two cultures, and the poetry was a great medium to draw those themes out. The American girls were able to ask the Saudi girls many questions and engage in dialogue regarding life in Saudi Arabia.”

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Alia Matariyeh, Saudi Arabia
2013-2014



JJ Manser and the 2012-2013 Saudi Arabia Fellowship

JJ Manser, Saudi Arabia 2012-2013: “Lecture: Dow Chemical Company World Headquarters:”

JJ was invited to give a briefing about his Fellowship study visit to Dow’s Middle East International Network entitled, *Beyond Sand and Oil: The Kingdom in Context*. The audience included around 60 individuals, both physically present and those

calling in both internationally and domestic, who had planned travels to Saudi Arabia. The feedback was excellent: “Business professionals who were in attendance stated that my presentation educated them beyond that of the ‘usual’ talking points on the Kingdom. They enjoyed the individual level of analysis, and enjoyed hearing stories of the culture. I believe that these individuals now have a much richer understanding of the Kingdom.”



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[Amanda Maxwell, Saudi Arabia 2012-2013, “Online Publication: Saudi Arabia in Pictures” and “Guest Speaker: Poems for Peace:”](#)

Mandie created a video slideshow in order to reach out to the online community and educate them about her experiences (available to view [here](#)). “Now that I have had several months to reflect upon my trip to Saudi Arabia, I have found that pictures are the best way to relive my memories. I wanted to give others the same opportunity by creating a photo slide video,” explains Mandie. In a program called “Poems for Peace,” Mandie recited a special poem to university students and representatives from a local women’s shelter. Mandie says, “This project successfully fulfilled the mission of the Fellowship as I read a poem authored by a student I met at Prince Sultan University. We have remained in connect through social media and she had shared her work with me. I was able to read the poem, ‘Woman’ and then proceed to talk about breaking the stereotypes of Saudi Arabian women.”

[Kelsey Chapman, Saudi Arabia 2013-2014, “Online Publication: Gettysburg College Office of Communications Feature” and “Travel Blog:”](#)

As an alumna of the most recent Saudi Arabia Fellowship, Kelsey was interviewed by her college’s Office of Communications for a website feature. Not only did Kelsey explain the details of her trip, but she also provided a link to her travel blog, which she updated during the actual Fellowship. Kelsey said, “The article was a great way to let the Gettysburg College community know about my trip... Hopefully people who saw this article will remember my trip and in the fall, when I plan on giving lectures...” Read the feature [here](#) and [explore](#) Kelsey’s blog.



Kelsey Chapman

